

Youth was served in a 30-car Legends 30-lap main event. Austin Grabowski, 17, led the first five laps from the pole. The fastest qualifier/third starter Connor Cantrell, who was celebrating his 16th birthday, passed Grabowski entering the first turn and led laps 6-26. Grabowski reclaimed the lead on lap 27 with an inside move from turn four to the starting line and paced the final four laps. Grabowski beat Cantrell by 0.196. Lindsey King, a female 17-year old second-year Legends driver, started fourth and finished third, only 0.514 behind the winner. Brian Wong took fourth; 16-year old K. J. Garrison, winner of the last two features, finished fifth, 0.978 back. Twenty-six starters finished and all completed 30 laps. Tom Landreth, a four-time IS Legends champion and six-time 2006 main event winner, started second. He was still second on lap eight when he spun out low in the fourth turn. He restarted last and raced back to ninth at the checker by passing his father Bob four laps from the finish. He lost 24 points from his 62 point lead and now leads by 38 points.

The featured SLM race had 29 entries, but only 26 cars started. Fastest qualifier Rip Michels, the recent (August 12) NASCAR Elite Division Southwest Series feature winner at Irwindale and the track's most prolific feature winner with 43, started from pole position. Winner Johnson started alongside in the first row. Johnson shot into the lead at the first lap green flag and remained in front all 50 laps despite four caution flags. He praised his team, Jackson Race Car and Maruopolus engine. Knill started sixth in his No. 43 J & M Construction Ford Taurus, another Jackson Race Car with a Hansen-built engine. He entered the race with a 16-point lead over David Beat and returned home to Tucson, AZ with a 40-point advantage with three races remaining on the schedule.

Stephen Peace, in a 2004 Dodge Intrepid, enjoyed his best finish at Irwindale. He started eighth and finished third, 1.012 in back of the winner. Jim McGill started fourth and was second when he made an inside move to take the lead from Johnson entering the third turn on lap 48. However, he lost two positions to Knill and Peace in the process and finished fourth, 1.368 second in back of Johnson. Newcomer Jason Fensler, from Wilton (near Sacramento) started ninth and finished his Irwindale-best fifth in a second Team Wong Racing Monte Carlo. Todd Southwell, Rod Johnson, Dan O'Donnell, Dan Moore and rookie Brett Edwards completed the top ten. Twenty of 26 starters were still circulating at the checkers and 15 of them ran all 50 laps.

SLM mayhem began on lap seven with a four-car crash involving cars running 17th to 20th. On lap eight the 15th place car of Scott Conaway looped 360 degrees on the backstretch and sent up cloud of tire smoke. Cars of Cory Fancy, Las Vegas visitor Alex Haase, and first-time SLM competitor Kyle Kelley collided, sidelining the Fancy and Haase cars with extensive front-end damage. Then second-place Michels, driving Dan Moore's back-up car that Michels owned and drove for years, had a tire going flat. He slowed and dropped to sixth position. On lap 18 Michels exited the track under the green flag to change the flat tire. For safety reasons, track rules prohibit drivers from exiting the track to the pits under the green flag. Track officials denied Michels intention to rejoin the race and disqualified him for his unauthorized exit from the track. Michels' 22nd place finish in the initial 26-driver finish order was canceled by his disqualification and the official finish showed only 25 cars.

The final incident occurred on lap 47 and involved seventh-running David Ross and SLM title-contender David Beat. Ross passed Beat for seventh place during lap nine. They dueled closely for seventh from lap 20 to lap 47. Beat tried to pass Ross on the inside on the backstretch with four laps remaining just as Ross moved left. The impact sent Beat's Dodge Intrepid spinning to the infield as Ross continued non-stop under the caution flag. Beat continued through the infield and angrily pulled next to Ross' car in turn one. Race control officials sent Beat to the back of the field for causing the yellow flag. They also sent Ross to the back for causing Beat's spin and that move upset Ross. Both drivers complied and restarted at the back of the 20 remaining cars, with Ross last. Beat finished 14th, with Ross 15th. Beat trailed Knill by 16-points before the feature and remained second after the race, but he is now 40-points behind Knill.

Hard charger award winners collected \$100 in cash or gift certificates. They were rookie Chris Harness (18th to 10th in S/S), Bob Landreth (20th to 10th in Legends), and Gary Jenkins (24th to 13th in SLM). Dan O'Donnell won a six-lap trophy dash for the 12th-17th fastest SLM qualifiers. Fastest qualifiers on the third-mile were--Pure Stocks-Whitson, 18.032 (66.482 mph), Legends-Cantrell, 16.727 (71.669 mph), and GAM-Watkinson, 15.462 (77.532 mph). Crow set a new pure stock track record on the Figure 8 course with

• Lucas Oil Super Late Model
Stephen Peace

Speedway
Champions: 19



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